

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



**TESTIMONY BY:**

JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN  
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EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 22, 2019  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Room 423

**H.C.R. 102 / H.R. 95  
REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE CITY  
AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES  
ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF ABANDONED SHOPPING CARTS ON OAHU.**

House Committee on Transportation

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** the effort to address the problem of abandoned shopping carts on Oahu.

With respect to the involvement of the DOT in this matter, shopping carts, in good condition, that are encountered on State lands by our contractor are returned to their rightful owners. As the contractor is a part of our management plan to address the issue of abandoned or seized property, we believe that the DOT is sufficiently managing this problem. However, the DOT would be happy to support the City and County in their efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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**Toby Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Chair*  
**Joe Carter**, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Vice Chair*  
**Charlie Gustafson**, Tamura Super Market, *Secretary/Treas.*  
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**Paul Kosasa**, ABC Stores, *Advisor*  
**Barry Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Derek Kurisu**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

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TO:

Committee on Transportation  
Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair  
Rep. Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 22, 2019  
TIME: 10am  
PLACE: Conference Room 423

RE: HR 95 REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF ABANDONED SHOPPING CARTS ON OAHU.

Position: Oppose

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA is in opposition to this resolution to seeking to hold “businesses and establishments responsible for retrieving their abandoned shopping carts”.

Businesses and establishments do not abandon their shopping carts. Shopping carts are an expensive commodity, which businesses purchase in order to provide them as a convenience to customers. Unfortunately shopping carts are often stolen from businesses, and then abandoned by thieves. Expecting a business that has been robbed to take responsibility when thieves incorrectly dispose of their stolen property is unfair and unreasonable.

Most stores that provide shopping carts already take precautions to try and prevent carts from leaving their property. This resolution doesn't do anything to deter or prevent shopping cart theft or abandonment; instead it seeks to place an additional burden on businesses that have already been robbed. This is unfair and will not solve the problems laid out in the measure. For these reasons we ask that this resolution be held.



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI  
PRESIDENT  
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII  
March 22, 2019**

**Re: HCR 102 / HR 95 REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
SERVICES ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF ABANDONED SHOPPING CARTS ON OAHU.**

Good morning Chairperson Aquino and members of the House Committee on Transportation. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) as founded in 1901 and is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii.

The retail industry is one of the largest employers in the state, employing 25% of the labor force.

RMH is opposed to HCR 102 / HR 95 Requesting That The Department Of Transportation And The City And County Of Honolulu Department Of Transportation Services Address The Problem Of Abandoned Shopping Carts On Oahu.

Retailers provide shopping carts as a convenience for their customers while they are shopping on property. Yet, Hawaii retailers experience continual losses from stolen shopping carts on a daily basis. And for some reason, it has become “acceptable” for people to take shopping carts off property to go to the bus stop, to their condos, to recycling centers, or to be used as mobile homes by the residentially challenged. These carts are NOT cheap to replace and **the people removing the carts are in fact stealing the carts with no penalties or repercussions for doing so.**

**Without input from retailers, we are concerned that the rules** suggested by the State Department of Transportation and City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services **would NOT be fair and NOT take into consideration retailer’s trials and tribulations in trying to maintain their carts on property.** It is easy to blame and penalize retailers for the abandoned cart instead of the unknown thieves or the residentially challenged who took it. **However it is the retailers who are the victims of the theft.**

Furthermore the rules could penalize retailers who may not even own the cart but are presumed guilty because the cart was “found” near their place of business; wanting to fine retailers if they are unable to recover their stolen property within a specified amount of time. Note many retailers – especially small businesses – do NOT have the type of company vehicles needed to retrieve the carts like a pickup truck or cargo type van.

We question **why are the real thieves not fined for removing shopping carts from store property or for being in possession of any shopping carts?** We believe that if there were penalties for those who steal the carts and that these penalties were enforced, we would see less stolen shopping carts around the community.

We urge you to hold this measure. Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**TESTIMONY OF  
LARRY S VERAY**

**TO**

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

**SUPPORT TO HCR 102 / HR 95**

**RELATING TO ABANDONED SHOPPING CARTS**

**MARCH 21, 2019**

Aloha, Chair Henry Aquino and Vice Chair Troy Hashimoto, and Committee members. I am Chair for the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21 and I am submitting this testimony as an individual in SUPPORT to HCR 102 / HR 95.

This resolution requests that the Department of Transportation and the City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services address the problem of abandoned shopping carts on Oahu.

This problem has festered for the past decade with no agency or retail store taking responsibility or leadership to mitigate this problem. It is very concerning for me to observe our senior citizens waiting in the hot sun for people to make available a shopping cart in front of their favorite supermarket because the majority of the shopping carts have been taken off the shopping center property. Many of the homeless are responsible for the majority of the stolen shopping carts followed by lower income families who take the carts with their groceries and push the carts to their housing complexes and just discard them on the property or leave them at bus stops. I have confronted many of the store managers in Pearl City and not one of them will attempt prosecute anyone taking their shopping carts. Times probably has the best track record of not having their shopping carts stolen because of the magnetic wheel sensors they have installed on their carts similar to Walmart in Waikiki. Bottom line; we need leadership and a plan of action to mitigate stolen shopping carts.

**Recommend a Task Force be stood up of selected members from State Legislature, City & County Honolulu Department of Transportation Services, Humane Resources, Police Department, Grocery and Retail Stores and Neighborhood Boards to develop a plan of action based on creative, innovative and resourceful ideas to prevent or reduce shopping cart theft from our grocery and retail stores on Oahu. This is an achievable goal.**

**I most strongly urge you to "APPROVE" HCR 102 / HR 95. Mahalo!**

Very respectfully,

*Larry S. Veray*